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R^0 and R^1 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, and C_{1-6}alkoxy substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyl substituted by one or more fluorine atoms, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}hydroxyalkyl, SC_{1-6}alkyl, C(O)H, $C(O)C_{1-6}$alkyl, C_{1-6}alkylsulphonyl, and C_{1-6}alkoxy substituted by one or more fluorine atoms; and

R^3 is C_{1-6}alkyl or NH_2.

2. (Twice Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^0 and R^1 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, and C_{1-6}alkoxy; R^2 is C_{1-3}alkyl substituted by one or more fluorine atoms; and R^3 is C_{1-3}alkyl or NH_2.

3. (Twice Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^0 and R^1 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, F, Cl, C_{1-3}alkyl, and C_{1-3}alkoxy; R^2 is C_{1-3}alkyl substituted by one or more fluorine atoms; and R^3 is methyl or NH_2.

4. (Twice Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^0 is selected from the group consisting of F, Cl, C_{1-3}alkyl and C_{1-3}alkoxy; R^1 is H; R^2 is C_{1-3}alkyl substituted by one or more fluorine atoms; and R^3 is methyl or NH_2.

5. (Twice Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^0 is at the 3- or 4- position of the phenyl ring; and R^2 is at the 6- position of the pyridine ring.

6. (Amended) A compound selected from the group consisting of:

4-[2-(3-fluoro-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;

2-(3-fluoro-phenyl)-3-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;

4-[2-(4-ethoxy-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;

4-[2-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;

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2-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;

4-(2-phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl)-benzenesulfonamide;

3-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-2-phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;

4-[2-(4-methyl-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;

and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof.

7. (Amended) A compound selected from the group consisting of:

N-acetyl-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

N-acetyl-4-[2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

N-acetyl-4-[2-phenyl-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

sodium salt of N-acetyl-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-N-(2-methoxyacetyl)benzenesulfonamide;

4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-N-propionylbenzenesulfonamide;

4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-N-isobutyrylbenzenesulfonamide;

N-benzoyl-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

methyl 4-[({4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}sulfonyl)amino]-4-oxobutanoate;

4-[({4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}sulfonyl)amino]-4-oxobutanoic acid;

4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-N-pentanoylbenzenesulfonamide;

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2-[({4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}sulfonyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl acetate;

N-acetyl-4-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

N-(2-chloroacetyl)-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

N-[2-(diethylamino)acetyl]-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

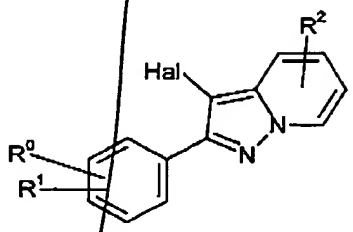
methyl {4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}sulfonylcarbamate; and

tert-butyl {4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}sulfonylcarbamate.

8. (Amended) A compound selected from the group consisting of:
4-[6-chloro-2-(3-ethoxyphenyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
6-chloro-2-(3-ethoxyphenyl)-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
4-[6-methyl-2-phenyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-methyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
4-[2-(3-ethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
4-[2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
6-methyl-2-phenyl -3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-methyl-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
2-(3-ethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof.

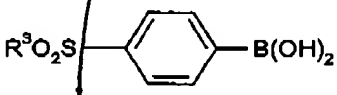
9. (Amended) A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) reacting a compound of formula (II)



(II)

or a protected derivative thereof, with a compound of formula (III)



(III)

or a protected derivative thereof to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

10. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof as claimed in claim 1 in admixture with one or more physiologically acceptable carriers or excipients.

13. (Amended) A method of treating an animal subject suffering from a condition which is mediated by selective inhibition of COX-2 which comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative as claimed in claim 1.

14. (Amended) A method of treating an animal subject suffering from an inflammatory disorder, which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof as claimed in claim 1.

17. (New) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^0 is selected from the group consisting of F, Cl, methyl and ethoxy; R^1 is H; R^2 is trifluoromethyl; and R^3 is methyl or NH_2.

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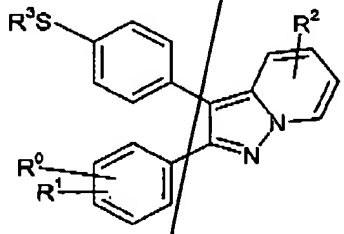
18. (New) A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) where R^3 represents C_{1-4}alkyl, reacting a compound of formula (IV)



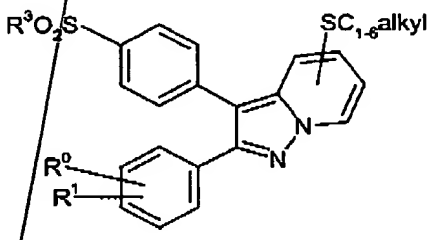
(IV)

or a protected derivative thereof with an oxidising agent to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

19. (New) A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) where R^2 is C_{1-6}alkylsulphonyl, oxidising a compound of formula (V)



(V)

or a protected derivative thereof to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

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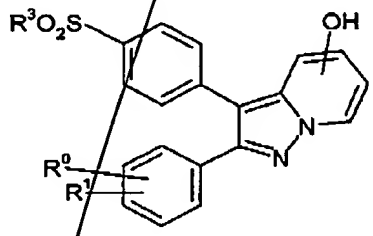
20. (New) A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) where R^2 is C_{1-6}alkoxy substituted by one or more fluorine atoms, reacting a alcohol of formula (VI)



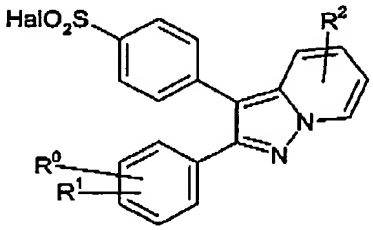
(VI)

or a protected derivative thereof with a halofluoroalkane to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

21. (New) A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) where R^3 is NH_2, reacting a compound of formula (X)



(X)

with a source of ammonia under conventional conditions to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

22. (New) A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) interconverting a compound of formula (I) into another compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

23. (New) A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) deprotecting a protected derivative of compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

24. (New) A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of a human subject suffering from a condition which is mediated by selective inhibition of COX-2 which comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof as claimed in claim 1.

25. (New) A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of a human subject suffering from an inflammatory disorder, which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof as claimed in claim 1.

26. (New) A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of conditions and diseases selected from the group consisting of pain, fever and inflammation mediated by selective inhibition of COX-2, said method comprising administering an effective

amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof as claimed in claim 1.

27. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein said conditions and diseases are selected from the group consisting of rheumatic fever, symptoms associated with influenza or other viral infections, lower back pain, neck pain, headache, toothache, sprains, strains, myositis, neuropathic pain, synovitis, arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, degenerative joint diseases, osteoarthritis, gout, ankylosing spondylitis, tendinitis, bursitis, psoriasis, eczema, burns, dermatitis, sports injuries, injuries arising from surgical procedures and injuries arising from dental procedures.

28. (New) A method for the prophylaxis and treatment of pain, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1.

29. (New) A method for the prophylaxis and treatment of arthritis, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1.

30. (New) A method for the prophylaxis and treatment of conditions involving inflammatory processes, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1, wherein said conditions involving inflammatory processes are selected from the group consisting of asthma, allergic rhinitis, respiratory distress syndrome, inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, gastritis, irritable bowel syndrome, ulcerative colitis, vascular disease, migraine, periarteritis nodosa, thyroiditis, aplastic anemia, Hodgkin's disease, sclerodoma, type I diabetes, myasthenia gravis, multiple sclerosis, sorcoidosis, nephrotic syndrome, Bechet's syndrome, polymyositis, gingivitis, conjunctivitis and myocardial ischemia.

31. (New) A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of cognitive disorders, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1.

32. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein said cognitive disorders are selected from the group consisting of degenerative dementia, senile dementia, Alzheimer's